

# Kovai language

**Kovai** (Kobai, Kowai) is a Papuan language spoken on Umboi Island, halfway between mainland Papua New Guinea and the island of New Britain, and mostly within the caldera of that volcanic island.

Contents

Phonology

Vowels (orthographic)

Consonants (orthographic)

References

External links

## Phonology

### Vowels (orthographic)

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u
Mid	e		o
Open		a	

### Consonants (orthographic)

	Labial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar
Voiceless plosive	p	t		k
Voiced plosive	b			g
Voiced nasal	m	n		ng
Voiceless fricative		s		
Voiced fricative		z		
Voiced trill		r		
Approximant	w	l	y	

## References

1. Kovai (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/kqb/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)

Kovai	
Native to	Papua New Guinea
Region	Umboi Island, Morobe Province
Native speakers	6,000 (2011) <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	Trans–New Guinea <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Finisterre–Huon<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Huon<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Kovai</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	kqb
Glottolog	kova1243 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/kova1243">http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/kova1243</a> ) <sup>[2]</sup>

2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Kovai" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/kova1243>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

## External links

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